Appl. No.: 09/684,949

Amdt. Dated: December 12, 2005

Second Preliminary Amendment in Response to final Office Action of June 24, 2005

REMARKS

Applicant submits this Second Preliminary Amendment to correct typographical errors appearing in Claims 7 and 20 of the Preliminary Amendment submitted November 23, 2005, and to add dependent Claims 26-28. Applicant requests entry of this Second Preliminary Amendment in coordination with the Preliminary Amendment submitted November 23, 2005.

Applicants submit that all of the pending Claims 1-28 of the present application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the amendments and allowance of the application are respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper, such as the fees for additional dependent claims. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher J. Gegg Registration No. 50,857

CUSTOMER NO. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP

Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111
CLT01/4772931v1

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-

1450 on December 13, 2005

Joyce D. Smith